

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01138 041611Z

46

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /076 W

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P 041541Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5369

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 1138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, NL

SUBJ: DE TELEGRAAF PETITION IN SUPPORT OF KLM

REFS: THE HAGUE 0729 AND 0810

1. DE TELEGRAAF REPORTER DE HAAS (WHO WAS PAPER'S US CORRESPONDENT BASED IN NEW YORK FOR THREE YEARS PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO THE NETHERLANDS A FEW MONTHS AGO) HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR SIDNEY VAN DEN BERG, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ORGANIZATION FOR TRADE PROMOTION, AND PROFESSOR A. KNOPPERS, PRESIDENT OF MERCK AND COMPANY AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NETHERLANDS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK, TO PRESENT A PETITION IN SUPPORT OF KLM TO MR. SEIDMAN AT THE WHITE HOUSE AT APPROXIMATELY 3 PM WASHINGTON TIME MARCH 5. DE TELEGRAAF'S NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON THE THEME "GIVE KLM ROOM" HAS RUN FOR ABOUT A MONTH AND REPORTEDLY COLLECTED MORE THAN 100,000 SIGNATURES, INCLUDING THOSE OF MANY PROMINENT DUTCHMEN. SINCE THE PETITION FORM WAS ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD, DE TELEGRAAF EXPLAINED THAT IT FELT IN FAIRNESS TO THOSE WHO SIGNED IT THAT THE PETITION SHOULD BE PRESENTED DIRECTLY TO THE WHITE HOUSE. BOTH DE HAAS AND THE FOREIGN EDITOR OF DE TELEGRAAF HAVE EMPHASIZED

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PAGE 02 THE HA 01138 041611Z

THAT THE PETITION CAMPAIGN WAS NOT RPT NOT CONCEIVED

WITH ANY ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS OR INTENDED TO SERVE
ANY ANTI-AMERICAN PURPOSE.

2. ON THE BASIS OF THE LATTER ASSURANCE AND BECAUSE
OF THE POTENTIAL PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVANTAGES TO THE
US, THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED WITH DE TELEGRAAF'S
REQUEST TO RECEIVE THE MANAGING EDITOR AND FORMER
CHIEF EDITOR (AND PART OWNER AND PUBLISHER) OF DE TELE-
GRAAF WHO WILL BRING A LARGE NUMBER OF BOXES OF THE
PETITIONS TO THE EMBASSY ON THE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 5.
DE TELEGRAAF WILL ALSO HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHER PRESENT.
IN RETURN FOR OUR COOPERATION, WE PLAN TO GIVE DE TELE-
GRAAF A PRESS RELEASE (TEXT IN SEPTTEL) REFERRING TO THE SECRETARY'S
RECENT HELPFUL AND REASSURING COMMENTS ON DUTCH TV
(THE HAGUE 0723) AND POINTING OUT THAT WHEREAS PANAM
HAS CUT BACK ITS SERVICE TO THE NETHERLANDS BY 50 PER-
CENT, KLM IS STILL FLYING SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AMOUNT
OF CAPACITY TO THE US AS WHEN THE FIRST ROUND OF CIVIL
AIR NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE HAGUE LAST OCTOBER.
GOULD

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